

The Colored American

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We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication must reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

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LET US APPEAL TO ROOSEVELT.

We are pleased to note that another strong effort is being made to secure just treatment for the gallant band of Negroes who bared their breasts during the Spanish-American War in defense of their country's flag. When the army was re-organized, no provision was made for the utilization of the experience and talents of the officers who had rendered such signal service in Cuba and in the Philippines, and they were debarred from the examinations for commissions in the regular establishments. White officers of inferior attainments were given every opportunity to find profitable billets for life, and even over the colored regiments that had distinguished themselves in the field, there were placed white captains and other officers, when colored men of acknowledged competence were available and anxious to be adequately recognized. It was declared by those high in authority that "it was not the policy of the administration to give commissioned offices to Negroes," no matter what their worth might be. That was under the administration that is no more, and the generous attitude of the New President as regards the lily-white movement in the South has caused the friends of the aspiring Negro military men to pluck up fresh courage, in the belief that if there are influences at work against the appointment of capable Negroes solely on the account of their color, that he will interfere, in the interest of abstract justice. If the fault lies at the door of the Adjutant-General of the Army, as some allege, a way should be found to bring him to a proper discharge of his duty. The social complications set up as a bug-bear, should have no weight among right-thinking Americans. A sensible course of conduct on the part of the officers of both races will solve all problems likely to arise in the matter of social contact at the mess or elsewhere. The army is a business concern not a social institution, and the flub-dub of the drawingroom should be subordinated to the serious purpose of protecting life and property, for which the military establishment is created and maintained at so great an expense. The underhand methods employed by

Negro cadets out of West Point and Annapolis is a scandal upon the American government, and its boasted principles of "fair play." The only opportunity that can come to the black man to win his spurs in the army or navy is found in such unexpected emergencies as the Spanish-American War, where volunteers from every element are needed to fill out the legal quota. It was only after a bitter struggle that we were allowed commissions in the late war, and as soon as the brunt of battle was over, we were remanded to the rear, and raw material from civil life, was brought in to do the work which should have fallen to the lot of the most experienced among our soldiery.

It is not too late for the present administration to right the wrongs inherited from a previous regime. The country may need these men again in her moment of peril, and they should be treated in accord with the broad and liberal provisions of the constitution of the republic. We are pleased to see a renewal of effort to open the eyes of those in places of power, to the unjust conditions under which our soldiers are laboring, to the end that a correction may be brought about. We believe President Roosevelt to be unaware of the true state of affairs. We suggest that the persons directly concerned take immediate steps to call the facts to his attention, and urge the appointment of one or more deserving men to honorable places in the regular army. It should not be difficult to organize a delegation, embracing our best men, to lay our case before the big-hearted man at the White House.

It is a matter for serious regret that the lynching law in Indiana has proven a failure. Governor Durbin offered the dismissal of a sheriff who permitted a prisoner to be taken by a mob and murdered. The sheriff obeys the Governor and surrenders the office, but he is then re-elected by the Board of County Commissioners who have the power to fill vacancies—thus placing him beyond the authority of the State Executive. Wherever the sentiment of the Commissioners in favor of a sheriff in such cases, he is immune from the effects of the act of the legislature. It is said that an effort is to be made by the law-makers to amend the statute in some way that will prove a potent deterrent to the lynchers. States like Indiana should not fail to record themselves on the side of law and order.

Dr. William Demos Crum should be confirmed as collector of the port at Charleston, S. C., without difficulty.

The "professional Negro" is still doing battle for the uplift of the race, despite the attempt of the Caucasian press to belittle his honest efforts.

President Roosevelt's heart is in the right place. Let us appeal to his sense of fair play to provide suitably for our brave boys in the United States Army.

Why pass miscegenation laws, if the races are naturally antagonistic? No white woman can be made to marry a Negro against her will. Are the restrictive laws necessary to keep her from mixing up with our despised people?

"The Crackers" mistake their guess if they think the President is a man that can be "bluffed." They thought he was "good and easy," and that his nerve would not last through a declaration of bitter war on his Negro policy, but the Rough Rider will be found doing business at the old stand until the sun goes down upon their wrath.

The Washington Post is unduly worked up over the mission of General Clarkson, and is greatly worried over the fear that President Roosevelt is being badly advised in matters pertaining to the South. Every time the hustling New Yorker visits Washington the Post indulges in a duck-fit and grinds out a new editorial on "Negro domination."

Mrs. Minnie M. Cox should stand her ground in the Indian's post-office matter, until the local authorities can guarantee ample protection to her in the discharge of her duties. If the business people think more of their

absurd prejudices than they do of their financial interests, they can do without mail facilities until they experience a change of heart. Postmaster-General Payne is giving the Indianola "crackers" a fine exhibition of how an administration can "stand pat."

It is given out that Rev. Ernest Lyon, of Baltimore, is slated for the Liberian mission, as an agreement has been reached that the place shall go to the State of Maryland. Dr. Lyon is a worthy man, and did some effective campaigning for the republican ticket in 1896 and 1900, having charge of the New York end of the Negro Bureau in the first-mentioned year. He is a minister of high standing in the Methodist Episcopal connection, and is a scholar of parts.

The South isn't half as fearful of "Negro domination" as its tricky leaders pretend. The illiterate whites, "crackers," and clay-eaters are not aware of the fact that the scarce is kept up only to hold them in line for the democratic party. The Tillmans' Morgans, Carmacks, Hardwicks and that ilk are feathering their own nests by shrewdly making their ignorant followers howl to the tune of a fancied ambition of social equality on the part of the black people. And the trick never fails to work, showing that the southern whites are sadly in need of some elementary education.

ON THE PACIFIC SLOPE.

Tour of Dr. Booker T. Washington a Continuous Ovation.—Cordial Reception by the Women of Cultured Los Angeles—Itinerary In and About San Francisco Successfully Conducted.

Booker T. Washington has captured the Pacific slope. His appearance, speeches and daily movements have been the signal for honors second to those accorded no visitor who has yet made his way through the beautiful valley of the Yosemite. The great crowds that follow him, and the enthusiasm engendered in every community find no parallel save in the famous tour of the State by the late President McKinley, and in some cases even greater interest is shown by the admirers of the world's most eminent Negro educator. The following extract from the Los Angeles Record, of January 2, will give an idea of the scenes occurring in that celebrated center of wealth and culture during Dr. Washington's sojourn. The comparisons insinuated by the paper are highly significant, and offer quite an extensive field for study. Said the Record:

"Booker T. Washington received an ovation to-day when he delivered his first address in this city, at the Women's club house, greater than that accorded the immortal President McKinley in 1900.

Los Angeles club women evidently made a decided distinction between the colored people as individuals and colored people as a race.

They demonstrated conclusively to-day that they will follow fashion, be the fad even to the extent of courting the favor of a colored man.

Who would have thought that the women, who so generously applauded every look and act of Booker T. Washington to-day were the same wrathful debaters who would willingly have gathered all the powers of heaven and earth to keep Mrs. Ruffin, a well-educated refined colored woman, out of their General Federation of Women's clubs here recently?

The Woman's club house was crowded with men and women at 10:30 this morning, and before Mr. Washington's arrival, aisles, spaces and platforms had been crowded with expectant women.

The assemblage would have done credit to a king in his realm, and the rising salutation given when Washington entered, must have seemed a strange welcoming to a man, born a slave.

Mr. Washington was due at 10:30 o'clock, and from that time until 11 o'clock the ever increasing crowd, amused itself by relating in a semi-undertone, hurriedly gleaned anecdotes of the early life of Booker Washington, his parentage, birthplace and accomplishments.

This entertaining conversation was

interrupted at intervals by those in the front of the hall, scrambling to their feet, followed by the rest of the crowd. This demonstration was influenced by a belief that Washington was approaching. After this unusual feat had been accomplished several times, with the necessary number of feet trodden on, and a large number of hats knocked further askew, the Friday Morning club women, and as many of their friends as they could by any means pack into the building, were repaid by the appearance of Booker T. Washington.

He was greeted with a deafening clapping of hands and a chataqua salute.

Booker Washington won his hearers at the outset by appealing, not to reason, vanity or knowledge, but to a woman's sympathy.

He briefly related the story of his pathetic birth in a cabin as a slave, his release and subsequent struggle to support an aged mother. Thence he continued on autobiography until the year 1881, when he founded the Tuskegee Industrial Institute in Alabama.

His address was a plea to the white race to aid the colored people in making themselves useful American citizens.

In the course of his remarks he said:

"Freedom meant to the slaves, rest; and when one urged the need of industrial education in the Tuskegee Institute, the negroes rose up and said: 'We have worked for 250 years, now we are free, let us learn from books.'

"It is with infinite praise that instructors of the school are now teaching that being worked is a degradation; but working means civilization.

"My friends, if you are to uplift my race and protect your own, make the colored man self-respecting, eminently useful.

"The solution of any race problem is to teach men to do a common thing in an uncommon manner."

Everytime that Booker Washington paused to get his breath there was deafening applause and when he concluded the applause lasted several minutes.

The Friday Morning club women are discussing the feasibility of arranging a social event in compliment to Booker Washington.

After his address Mr. Washington received the congratulations and handshakes of many of the most prominent women in the city."

After addressing the State Teachers' Association at Los Angeles on Thursday, January 8, Dr. Washington spoke at Stanford University, and in the evening he was the guest of the Ladies' Club of San Francisco. Friday evening he spoke before the Pacific Seminary. Saturday he was in Stockton. Sunday morning he delivered an address before the First Congregational Church, in San Francisco, and in the afternoon he spoke to a packed house before the Afro-American Co-operative Association, and at night he was given a cordial greeting by the citizens of Oakland.

Dr. Washington returns East during the last week of the present month.

Mr. Jno. F. Magruder, an old and respected citizen of this city, died Jan 1st, of this year, at the age of sixty-six years. He was the beloved husband of Mrs. Annie E. Magruder and uncle of Dr. Phillip Broome Brooks. He was a life-time resident of Washington, made many friends and was well and popularly known. His funeral took place from his late residence, 306 Third street, S. W., Sunday, Jan. 4th. They were conducted by Revs. Snowden, W. J. Howard and Daniels. The floral offerings were numerous and the attendance was very large.

Scaife, Ark.—I have received your peerless paper THE COLORED AMERICAN, very regularly, and always enjoy its timely contents. Wish every Negro alive to-day could read, and that they would read it each week. It is so rich and good until I hate to have it alone, though rarely part with a copy—in fact never do unless I know the favored party is going to appreciate the treat and read it, and that any sane human being will do. Really your paper is the Omega of high attainment and perfection in the journalistic way. Enclosed find check for \$5. With best wishes for your success, I beg to remain your devoted friend, H. G. B.